

GEORGE N. CAMPBELL, JR.
Commissioner

JEFF BRILLHART, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

Public Transportation Grant Application State FY 2012 (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012)

This application should be used to request funding from the following sources:

FTA Section 5310 (Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities Program)
FTA Section 5311 (Rural Transit Program)
FTA Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute -- JARC)
FTA Section 5317 (New Freedom)

Applicants should complete one Summary Section (pages 1-2) and the applicable Project Section for each project type applied for. (Please note that one application is for CAPITAL requests only and the other application is for OPERATING requests, which includes mobility management.)

If an agency is requesting both 5316 capital and 5316 operating funds, two separate applications must be submitted. If an agency is requesting a vehicle only, one CAPITAL application must be submitted.

Eligible recipients: private nonprofit organizations, public entities (for 5310, public entities must be designated coordinated service providers to be eligible)

Eligible projects: vary by program. See program circulars online at the FTA website: http://www.fta.dot.gov/laws/leg_reg_circulars_guidance.html or call for information.

5310: accessible vehicles and other capital equipment (e.g. radio systems).
✓ *Vehicles may be eligible for 10% state match this year subject to approval of the legislative Capital Budget Overview Committee.*

5311: capital equipment, operating expenses, administrative costs for rural public transit service.

5316 (JARC): capital, planning, and operating expenses that support the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment, or reverse-commute projects.

5317 (New Freedom): capital or operating expenses for new transportation services or alternatives beyond the requirements of the ADA, designed to assist individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation services, e.g. expanded paratransit beyond ADA requirements, travel training, alternatives such as vouchers, shared taxi or vanpool, programs to volunteer driver, mobility management, or coordination systems.

Matching fund requirements:

Capital Grants require a 20% local match

- ✓ This year 5310 vehicle requests may be eligible for 10% State match subject to the approval of the legislative Capital Budget Overview Committee.

Operating Grants require a 50% local match of net operating expenses. Although FTA defines preventive maintenance and ADA paratransit service as capital, with certain restrictions, these costs are to be included in the operating budget submission.

- ✓ Attachment A (Excel budget worksheet) will assist in identifying applicable operating expenses and required local match amounts.

Application submission

Format: Signed paper copy. No fax or electronic (except for Attachment A budget spreadsheet which should be emailed to Kjennison@dot.state.nh.us)

Deadline: March 1, 2011, 3:00 pm

Submit to: NHDOT-Bureau of Rail & Transit, PO Box 483, Concord, NH 03302-0483

Evaluation and selection: DOT staff will evaluate the applications and make selections based on the criteria spelled out in the Department's State Management Plans for FTA programs:

Selection criteria:

- The proposed service effectively addresses a demonstrated community need.
- The applicant has the fiscal and technical capacity and adequate budget to operate its service.
- The applicant has successful experience in providing transportation services.
- The application shows coordination with other transportation providers in the service area: public, nonprofit, and for-profit.
- The applicant demonstrates involvement in and support for the project, financial and otherwise, on the part of citizens and local government.
- The applicant demonstrates effort to involve the private sector in the delivery of transportation services.
- Elderly and disabled citizens have full access to the applicant's services.
- The applicant successfully demonstrates service efficiency and effectiveness, measured in ridership, service miles and hours, costs, and fare recovery. New applicants must demonstrate the ability to measure performance and achieve goals.
- The applicant complies with relevant Federal and state regulations, and has a history of compliance with regulations and reporting requirements.

The grant selection process seeks to extend service to a wide range of geographical regions as well as minority and disadvantaged groups. Capital grants for vehicles emphasize replacement of vehicles at the end of their useful life to sustain existing service.

Operating funds: For applicants that meet the above criteria, the Department determines funding levels based on existing funding to recipients, on anticipated funding, and on applicants' service measures such as ridership and service hours and miles. The Department does not distinguish between local revenues and funds derived from service contracts from other agencies, including those contracts paid with federal funds; both are considered local matching funds. Recipients may use in-kind contributions as local share, with the approval of the Department.

Other information:

Transportation plans

Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan: FTA regulations require all 5310, 5316 and 5317 projects to be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan. Generally the development of these plans is managed by regional planning commissions. If a plan has not been adopted in a region, funds may not be granted for these programs. The planning process must include all stakeholders in a region and include a needs assessment and prioritized strategies for addressing transportation needs in the region.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). All USDOT-funded transportation projects must be listed in the STIP. For State-administered programs, the DOT includes a single statewide listing for each program, which fulfills this requirement. It is not necessary to request separate regional inclusion of proposed projects in the STIP.

Attachments

Note that some attachments are required for certain programs only, such as requests for operating assistance. Contact the Bureau of Rail & Transit with questions about attachments.

Other Requirements

Certifications and Assurances: All successful applicants will be required to sign Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certifications and Assurances prior to contract award and annually to verify compliance with all Federal requirements.

Vehicle information

Purchasing. Vehicles are normally purchased by the State and titled to the receiving agency, with the State retaining a lien to protect the Federal interest. Agencies capable of adhering to FTA procurement guidelines may request permission to purchase vehicles themselves if it can be shown to be cost-effective to do so.

Vehicle types. A variety of vehicle types may be purchased under the FTA programs. The DOT has developed specifications for most of these; contact the Bureau of Rail & Transit for more information.

Program Measures

In addition to program-specific ridership requirements, each program has specific program goals, which must be tracked and periodically reported on. Current program measures include:

5310

Gaps in Service Filled. Provision of transportation options that would not otherwise be available for older adults and individuals with disabilities measured in numbers of older adults and individuals with disabilities afforded mobility they would not have without program support.

5316

Actual or estimated number of jobs that can be accessed as a result of geographic or temporal coverage of projects implemented.

5317

Actual Increases or enhancements related to geographic coverage, service quality and/or service times that impact availability of transportation services for individuals with disabilities.

Additions or changes to environmental infrastructure (e.g., transportation facilities, side walks, etc), technology, and vehicles that impact availability of transportation services as a result of the New Freedom projects implemented.